

Application No. 09/911,108

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Reply dated 14 April 2004

Responsive to Office Action mailed 24 March 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the previous set of pending claims with the following complete set of pending claims.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ A disposable absorbent article comprising:
a topsheet,
a backsheet, and
an absorbent core, and
having longitudinally opposing waistband regions ~~a crotch region,~~
wherein (i) ~~the~~ a crotch region of the absorbent core has an absorbent capacity of not more than about 40% of a total absorbent capacity of the absorbent core's total absorbent capacity,
core, and
wherein (ii) the absorbent core comprises at least one removable absorbent core component and at least one non-removable absorbent core component.
2. (Currently Amended) The ~~absorbent core~~ disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the absorbent capacity of the crotch region retains is from 0% to about 10% of the total absorbent capacity of the absorbent core's total capacity ~~core.~~
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~absorbent core~~ disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the removable absorbent core component comprises at least one storage/redistribution member.
4. (Currently Amended) The ~~absorbent core~~ disposable absorbent article of Claim 3 wherein the storage/redistribution member ~~is made from~~ includes fibrous material, open-celled polymeric foam material, absorbent gelling material, or ~~combinations~~ a combination thereof.
5. (Currently Amended) The ~~absorbent core~~ disposable absorbent article of Claim 4 wherein the absorbent gelling material is included at a concentration of from about 60% to about 100% by weight.
6. (Currently Amended) The ~~absorbent core~~ disposable absorbent article of Claim 5 wherein the absorbent gelling material has a Saline Flow Conductivity value of at least about $30 \times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ sec/g}$.

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7. (Currently Amended) The ~~absorbent core~~ disposable absorbent article of Claim 5 wherein the absorbent gelling material has a Performance Under Pressure capacity value of at least 23 g/g under a confining pressure of about 0.7 psi.
8. (Currently Amended) The ~~absorbent core~~ disposable absorbent article of Claim 5 wherein the absorbent gelling material has a gel volume of at least about 20 g/g.
9. (Currently Amended) The ~~absorbent core~~ disposable absorbent article of Claim 3 wherein the removable absorbent core component can be replaced by a replacement absorbent core component having the a same structure as the component which was removed.
10. (Currently Amended) The ~~absorbent core~~ disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the non-removable absorbent core component comprises at least one acquisition/distribution member.
11. (Currently Amended) The ~~absorbent core~~ disposable absorbent article of Claim 10 wherein the acquisition/distribution member ~~is made from~~ includes fibrous material, open-celled polymeric foam material, absorbent gelling material, or ~~combinations~~ a combination thereof.
12. (Currently Amended) The ~~absorbent core~~ disposable absorbent article of Claim 11 wherein the acquisition/distribution member exhibits a 30-minute Vertical Wicking Height of at least about 5 cm.
13. (Currently Amended) The ~~absorbent core~~ disposable absorbent article of Claim 11 wherein the open-celled polymeric foam material has a specific surface area per foam volume value of at least about 0.025 m²/cc.
14. (Currently Amended) The ~~absorbent core~~ disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the crotch region further comprises a material having a crotch cross sectional area at a crotch point of the ~~absorbent core's crotch point core~~ of not more than about 2.6 cm².
15. (Currently Amended) The ~~absorbent core~~ disposable absorbent article of Claim 14 wherein the crotch cross sectional area at the ~~absorbent core's crotch point~~ is not more than about 1 cm².
16. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The disposable absorbent article comprising the absorbent core of Claim 1 wherein the removable absorbent core component comprises an insertion pocket into which a user

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can insert fingers to insert the removable absorbent core component into the disposable absorbent article.

17. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 16 ~~1 wherein the absorbent article comprises~~ comprising access means for providing access to the at least one removable absorbent core component through an opening in the article so providing access such that the at least one removable absorbent core component may be removed from the disposable absorbent article through the opening without having to remove the disposable absorbent article from a wearer.
18. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 17 wherein the ~~access means provide access to at least one removable absorbent core component through an opening is~~ in the article's backsheet, the topsheet, one of the waistband regions, or ~~combinations~~ a combination thereof.
19. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 17 ~~1 comprising an aperture in the backsheet and an openable backsheet pocket affixed to the backsheet to cover the aperture and contain~~ wherein the ~~access means provide access to the at least one~~ removable absorbent core component ~~through a pocket formed between the topsheet and backsheet portions of the article.~~
20. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 17 ~~1 comprising an aperture in the backsheet,~~ wherein the ~~access means provide access to the at least one~~ removable absorbent core component ~~through~~ comprises an envelope that is formed between ~~by~~ a substantially fluid impervious layer and a substantially fluid pervious layer ~~of the article and is removably affixed to the backsheet to cover the aperture.~~